

Ellen Ruth Harrison

EIN HAUCH UM NICHTS

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for B \flat Clarinet

The title, *Ein Hauch um Nichts*, can best be understood in the context from which it has been drawn: the last stanza in one of Rainer Maria Rilke's *Sonnets to Orpheus*.

In Wahrheit singen, ist ein anderer Hauch.
Ein Hauch um Nichts. Ein Wehn im Gott. Ein Wind.

*True singing is a different breath.
A breath for nothing. A wafting in God. A wind.*

I became interested in the poems of Rainer Maria Rilke after hearing a wonderful setting of four of his sonnets by my friend Cindy Cox. While reading through them, I was very taken by the third sonnet in which he writes, "Song is being. For the god, a simple matter. But when do we *exist*? . . . True singing is a different breath. . ." I was particularly struck by the sound and elusive meaning of *Ein Hauch um Nichts*, part of a line that evokes the lyrical, singing quality of the clarinet.

Duration: circa 5 minutes

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Ein Hauch um Nichts

for David Schneider

Ellen Ruth Harrison (1990)

$\text{♩} = 56$

f *pp* *espressivo e rubato* *mp* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *sub.f* *sub.p*

6

mp *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mp*

Tempo I $\text{♩} = 56$ **Più mosso** $\text{♩} = 69$

molto rit. accel. *molto rit.* *molto rit.*

10

pp *mf* *pp*

Tempo I $\text{♩} = 56$ **Tempo I** $\text{♩} = 56$ **Più mosso** $\text{♩} = 63$

tr

14

mf sub.p *f*

A tempo $\text{♩} = 63$ **A tempo** $\text{♩} = 63$

accel. *accel.*

17 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* \langle *mf* \rangle *p* *mf*

18 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

ff *p* *mp* *p*

molto rit. *A tempo*

$\text{♩} = 63$

21 $\text{♩} = 69$

poco accel. *rit.* *poco accel.* *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 69$

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

24 $\text{♩} = 76$

poco accel. *molto rit.* *poco accel.* *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 76$

mf *mp* *p* *mp*

27 *poco più mosso*

mf *f*

30 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 69$ *pesante*

ff

♩ = 96 ♩ = 120 ♩ = 104 ♩ = 138 ♩ = 126

34 *ppp* freely *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

♩ = 84 poco rit. A tempo (♩ = 84)

35 *mf* *f* ³ *ff* *pp*

36 *f*

accel. poco rit. A tempo (♩ = 84)
pesante

37 *ff*

molto rit. ♩ = 63

38 *mf* *p sfz p* *mf* *mp*

poco accel. molto rit. Più mosso
♩ = 69

42 *mf* *f* ³ *f* ³

45 *rit.*

p

Tempo I

♩ = 56

48

f pp mp p f pp mp mf pp sub.f

52 *molto rit.*

sub.p f sub.p mf

Tempo I

♩ = 56

Più mosso

♩ = 69

55

pp p pp mp

Tempo I

♩ = 56

58

p mf mp f sub.p mf sub.p

molto rit.

Tempo I

♩ = 56

62

pp mp p